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## The Mystery of Grammy's Hidden Heritage

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Our paternal grandmother, Marjorie Arline Graham "Grammy."

Happy Birthday, Grammy! Our paternal grandmother 'Grammy' would be 109 today. Sadly, she only lived to be 64, passing away in 1980. Fortunately, she followed our dad from Massachusetts to California in 1962 after my grandfather passed away at just 46. This made it possible for me and my sister, Stephanie, to grow up with her until her passing—a short 16 years for me and an even shorter 11 years for my sister. She was a kind and jovial grandmother who loved her Benson & Hedges cigarettes and Highball cocktails (bourbon & ginger ale.) She would tell us stories and talk with our mom for hours with her thick New England accent and infectious cackle, all while cooking a pot of fish chowder or boiling lobsters.



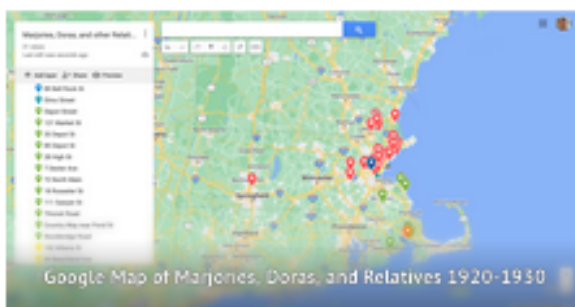
Grammy, droppin' lobstahs! *Sunset State Beach, CA (Circa 1975)*

There was a strong and stoic side to her as well. She was a nurse in Massachusetts but retired to move to California as a widow, where she promptly got a job in electronics assembly and testing at Varian in Palo Alto. She would work there until just a couple of years before her passing. She never talked about her parents, childhood, or upbringing. She would, however, tell us kids that we were descendants of Pilgrims, but as children, we were thinking, "Yeah, but isn't everybody?" Many years after Grammy's passing, our mom would tell us that she wasn't 100% sure, but she thought that our dad's mom was adopted and that it involved being the illegitimate child of a pastor, which created somewhat of a stir in the community. Our mom was sure Grammy believed she was somehow related to [William Bradford b. 1590](#), a rather significant passenger on the Mayflower, but that's all she could remember.



Grammy at her quality assurance testing station. Varian Palo Alto, CA (Circa 1976)

I have been researching our family tree for many years and knew that the 1920 census should show Grammy living with her parents, the Grahams, at age 5; instead, it listed a three-year-old daughter with a different name, Dora Harve or Harne. Ten years later, Grammy appeared on the 1930 census, living with her parents as an only child at the correct age of 15. I wouldn't know if the census takers wrote the age wrong in 1920. I spent hundreds of hours researching the names Dora Harve/Harne and Marjorie and even plotted them with other relatives onto a Google map, hoping to find a connection. All to no avail.



1920 United States Federal Census for Dora Harve

Massachusetts - Middlesex - Malden Ward 1 - District 125B

Rolling No.	Visited No.	Name	Relation	Home Owned	Married	Sex
194		Graham, Charles	Son			M
		Dora	Wife			F
		Harve, Dora	Daughter			F
197		Clarke, Sarah	Head			F
198/196		Johnson, Fels	Head			M

1920 Census for the Grahams



I spent even more time building the ancestry trees of close paternal DNA matches, but the problem was that my parents were only children. Hence, I had very few matches on my father's side that weren't easily identifiable as a connection to his Shervington ancestors. The closest match I had that looked promising was a first cousin once removed (1C1XR) named Janice; unfortunately, she was adopted too! However, everything changed early this year when that cousin's friend, who manages Janice's Ancestry profile, asked me if I could help her figure out who Janice's biological father was. As I began my research, I learned about the Leeds Method of categorizing your DNA matches and a DNA relationship prediction modeling program called *What Are the Odds* (WATO.) These tools helped me narrow down who Janice's father might have been! I am working on a post for that story as well. Look for it soon, if you're interested.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1		SURNAMES			SHERVINGTON	GRAHAM / HASKINS ?	MACDONALD	CRENSHAW
2		MATCH NAME			Paternal Grandfather	Paternal Grandmother	Maternal Grandfather	Maternal Grandmother
3		Wider or Higher	cM	(cousin?) Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	
4	✓	1. Mike Crenshaw	1789					CRENSHAW
5					SHERVINGTON	HASKINS	MACDONALD	CRENSHAW
6	✓	2. Janice Gibbons (N)	260			L. F. Haskins & M. A. Bumpus		
7	✓	3. J. H. (Father of J. H.)	70	1		W. T. Haskins & A. Muldoon		
8		4. Joseph Haskins (Mike Adkins' 1/2 Brother or Uncle)	70			W. T. Haskins & A. Muldoon		
9	✓	5. Lynn Kinler (J. H.'s Mother)	59	1		W. T. Haskins & A. Muldoon		
10	✓	6. Bappagan 79	57	1		C. W. Bumpus & M. Harlow		
11		7. Audrey Tricker (Bappagan 79's Granddaughter or Niece)	52			C. W. Bumpus & M. Harlow		
12	✓	8. Colleen Lynne	46	1		C. W. Bumpus & M. C. Bumpus		
13	✓	9. Cindy (SIB)	44	1		C. W. Bumpus & M. C. Bumpus		
14	✓	10. Rita Clark	43			C. W. Bumpus & M. C. Bumpus		
15		11. Cheryl Hamilton	43	1				
16		12. Katie Ann Hall	32	1				
17		13. Lee Ann Fontana	27	1				
18		14. Colleen Quinn	27	1				
19		15. Kathleen Haskins (Sister of Thomas Cummings & Joseph Haskins) (3rd Cousin or 1/2 Aunt of Mike Adkins)	41			Message Sent		
20	✓	16. J. H. (Son of J. H.)	40	1		W. T. Haskins & A. Muldoon		
21	✓	17. G. M.	39	1		C. W. Bumpus & M. C. Bumpus		
22	✓	18. Bryan Hamill	38			L. F. Haskins & M. A. Bumpus		

Skip's Leeds Chart Categorizing DNA Matches.

Using my newfound skills with Leeds and WATO, I figured my grandmother was either born a Haskins or a Bumpus. I wrote to the Judicial Archives of Massachusetts with this information, and they found her adoption and name change record! She was born Florence *Bradford* Haskins! She lived in the orphanage until age 6, when she was adopted by her parents, the Grahams. Knowing this, I believe Dora, from the 1920 census, was probably a foster child placement.

TO THE HONORABLE THE JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF  
MIDDLESEX: *COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS*

RESPECTFULLY represents *Charles Augustus Graham*  
of *Walden* in said County, and  
Vera Ruth Graham his wife, that they are of the age of twenty-one  
years or upwards, and are desirous of adopting *Florence B. Haskins*  
of said County.  
a child of *Julius A. Haskins, now Julia A. Paul*  
of *Wareham* in the County of *Plymouth* who  
was born to said Haskins which said child  
on the *1st* day of *November* A.D. 1915  
that said child was committed to the custody of the State Board of  
Charity, now the Department of Public Welfare, March 30, 1917,  
by the District Court at Wareham, as a neglected child, and the  
said Department has since provided for her support and maintenance.  
And the mother of said child has suffered said child to be sup-  
ported for more than two years continuously prior to the peti-  
tion as a pauper by the Commonwealth. And your petitioners are  
of sufficient ability to bring up said child and furnish her  
with suitable nurture and education.

Wherefore they pray for leave to adopt said child, and that her name may be changed to that  
of *Marjorie Arlene Graham*  
Dated this *7<sup>th</sup>* day of *July* A.D. 1922  
*Charles Augustus Graham*  
*Vera Ruth Graham*  
The undersigned, being the *brother* of said child,  
heretofore consented to the adoption, as above prayed for.  
*Julius A. Paul*  
I, the child aforesaid, being above the age of fourteen years, heretofore consent to the  
adoption as above prayed for.

Adoption & Name Change Record [1922]

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Memorandum, in.  
At a Probate Court, holden at *Cambridge* in and for said County of  
Middlesex, on the *twenty-fifth* day of *July*  
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty-two*  
On the petition of *Charles Augustus Graham* of  
*Walden* in said County  
and *Vera Ruth Graham* his wife, praying for leave to  
adopt *Florence B. Haskins* a child under  
the age of fourteen years as *Julia A. Haskins, now*  
*Julia A. Paul* of *Wareham*  
in the County of *Plymouth* and  
for leave, and for a change of said child's name.  
It appearing that *she mother, the only person entitled*  
*to notice*  
has been notified thereof; and that the Department of Public  
Welfare has acknowledged notice.  
and the Court being satisfied of the identity and relations of the persons, and that the petitioners  
are of sufficient ability to bring up said child and furnish her with suitable nurture and  
education, having reference to the degree and condition of her parents; and that it is fit and  
proper that such adoption should take place:  
It is ordered that from this day said child shall, to all legal intents and purposes, be the  
child of said petitioners, and that her name be changed to that of  
*Marjorie Arlene Graham*  
which she shall hereafter bear, and which shall be her legal name.  
*John L. Lygat* Judge of Probate Court

Adoption & Name Change Record [1922]

Now, my research has become more interesting because I learned from the record of a cousin—coincidentally, also a *Haskins*—who had a child out of wedlock (as a widow) in 1906 that single mothers sometimes used the biological father's surname as the child's middle name. In that case, the child's middle name was Lumbert. I searched the census records and quickly found a young single merchant marine fisherman with that last name who lived a few blocks from my cousin in Nantucket, making him a likely candidate for the father! So, if my great-grandmother (GGM), Julia A. Haskins, gave Grammy the middle name of Bradford, might her biological father be from the famous Bradford clan, making us related to William Bradford, as the family rumor suggests?

Massachusetts, U.S., Birth Records, 1840-1915 for Florence Bradford Haskins

1915 - Wareham

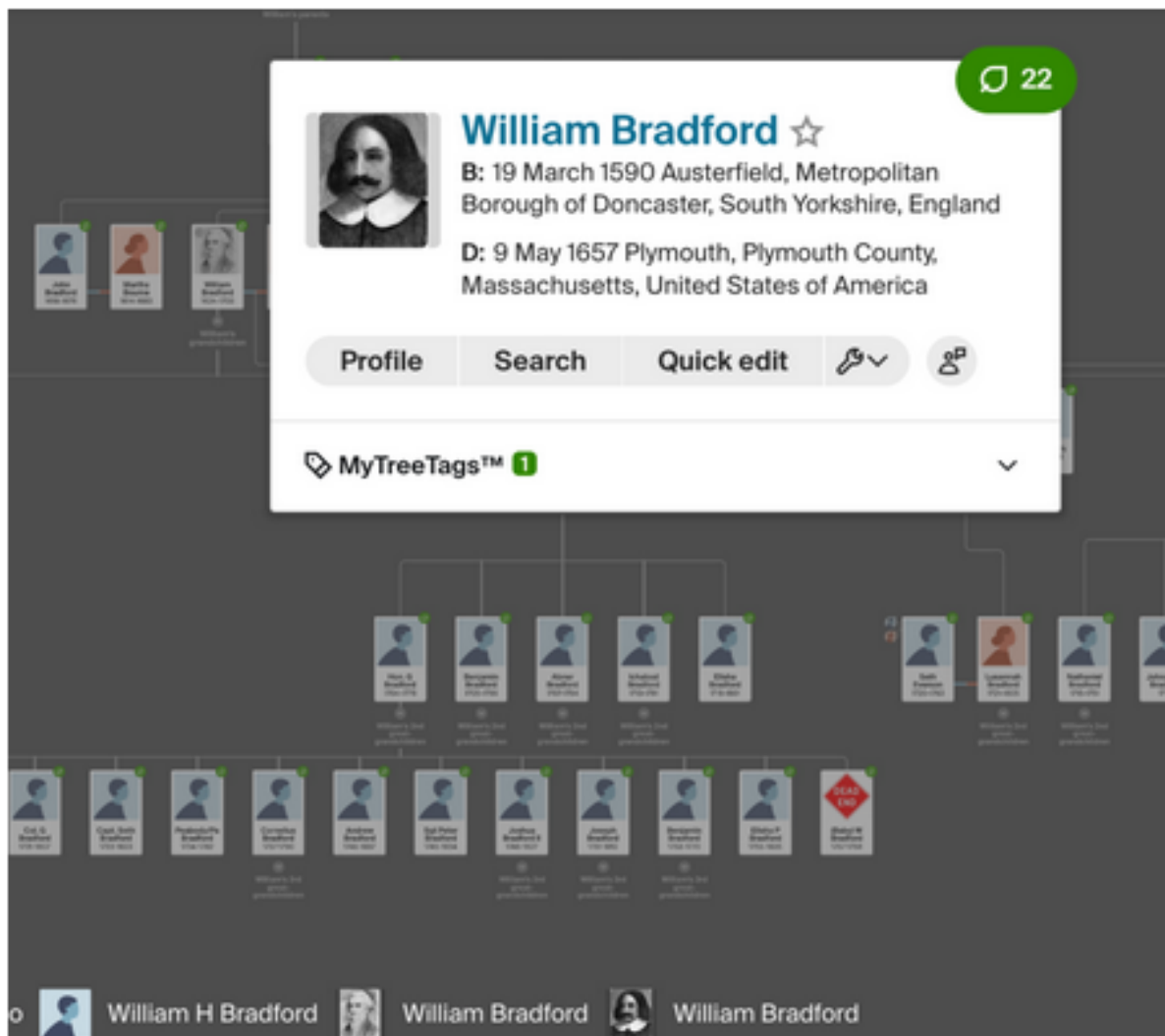
129	22	Gorsen	Dr.	"	Grant	Mary Graham	"	Laborer	Cape Cod	Cape Cod	"	"
130	23	Edward Lee Bishop	M.	"	George A.	Ada Robinson	"	Electrician	Fall River	Wareham	"	"
131	29	Santa	Dr.	"	Mmanuel	Maria Lopez	"	Laborer	Cape Cod	Cape Cod	"	"
132	1	Charlotte	Dr.	"	August	Augusta Smith	"	Stdy	Stdy	Stdy	"	"
133	1	Florence Bradford Haskins	Dr.	"	"	Julia A. Haskins	Wareham	Stdy	Wareham	Wareham	"	"
134	3	David Lee Thompson	M.	"	David	William Thompson	"	Stdy	Wareham	Wareham	"	"
135	3	Harry Clifford Chase	M.	Ansot	Ernest A.	Julia E. Files	Ansot	Ansot	Wareham	Dorchester	"	"

I hereby certify that the above return is correct according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Charles L. Butler, Town Clerk

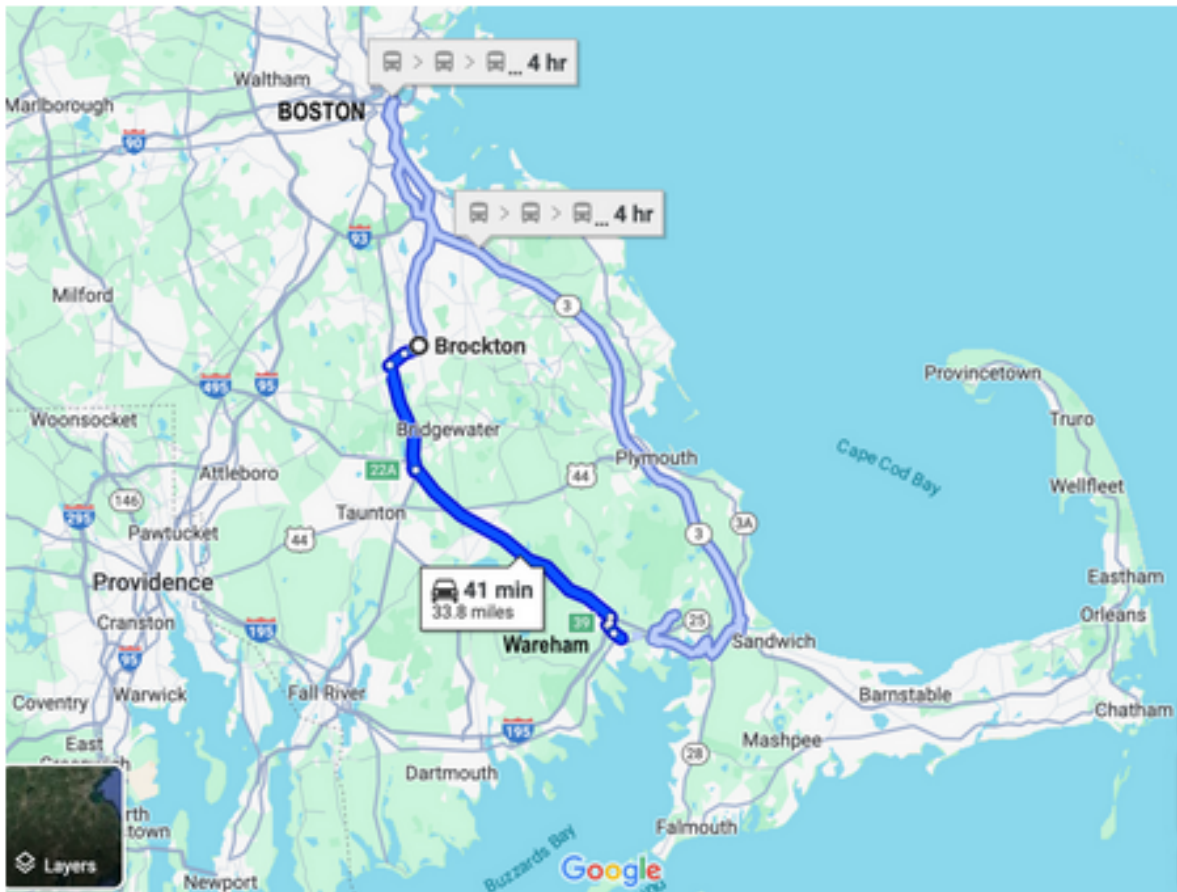
Grammy's Birth Record. Note the absence of a father and the middle name of Bradford.

To find a Bradford male candidate for my great-grandfather (GGF), I started with building the male Bradford line down from the Pilgrim, William Bradford b.1590. This took hours and, in hindsight, was a waste of time. However, as I got closer to male Bradfords born just before the turn of the century, it became clear that William's descendants seemingly couldn't get out of Massachusetts fast enough. Very few stayed near Plymouth.



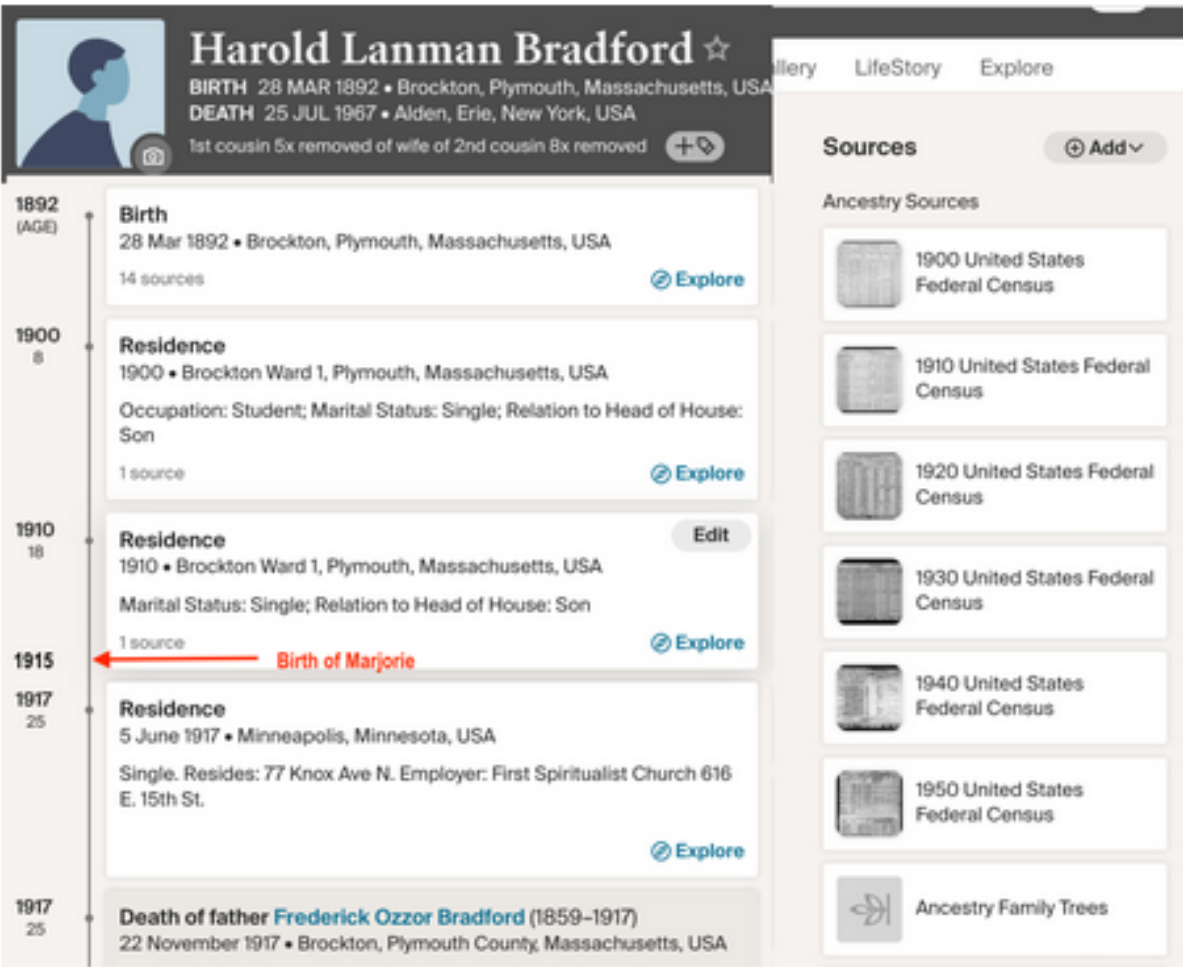


I turned my attention to Bradfords, born around 1895 and living in Massachusetts. I soon came across Harold Lanman Bradford, born in 1892, which makes him about three years older than my GGM, Julia. He would have been about 23 years old when Grammy was born in 1915. Harold and Julia grew up and lived in Plymouth County, MA. However, Harold lived in Brockton, about an hour north of Wareham.



Google Map Showing Distance Between Brockton, MA and Wareham, MA

I started building Harold's timeline of life events through census records, newspaper clippings, and other documents available on Ancestry.com. I discovered that he moved to Minnesota sometime between 1910 and 1917, leaving the possibility that he was still in Plymouth in 1915.



Harold L. Bradford b.1892 Life Event Timeline

The real shock came when I read on his WWI draft registration card that his occupation was *Pastor* and that he worked at a church in Minneapolis! This seems quite a coincidence, as it matches with the family lore.

**U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for Harold Lanman Bradford**  
Minnesota > Minneapolis City > 04 > Draft Card B


REGISTRATION CARD	
1. Name (last, first, middle)	Harold Lanman Bradford 25
2. Home address	77 Knox Ave. Minneapolis Minn
3. Date of birth	Mar 28 1892
4. Are you (1) married (2) single (3) a married man (4) an alien (5) or have you been	Married
5. Describe family (last, first, middle)	Natural Born Citizen
6. Place born	Boston, Mass. U.S.
7. What is your occupation	Pastor 28
8. Where employed	First Spiritual Church
9. Where employed	46 - 1st St. E. Minneapolis
10. Have you ever been in the military service of the United States	No
11. What other service have you had? (last, first, middle)	No
12. Do you claim exemption	Yes Religious principles

I affirm that I have filled out these answers and that they are true.  
*Harold Lanman Bradford*

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1. Full name of registrant	Harold Lanman Bradford
2. Date of birth	Mar 28 1892
3. Place of birth	Boston, Mass.
4. Date of registration	June 5 1917
5. Name of registrar	John E. Conk
6. City or County	Minneapolis
7. State	Minnesota

Harold Lanman Bradford b.1892 Draft Registration Card (June 5, 1917)

Harold appears to have led an interesting life, eventually moving to upstate New York to work at the First Spiritualist Church of Lily Dale and becoming a doctor in biopsychology. He married twice and has descendants still living in the region, whom I have contacted for comment and more information.



Harold Lanman Bradford

BIRTH

28 MAR 1892 • Brockton, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA


DEATH

25 JUL 1967 • Alden, Erie, New York, USA

1st cousin 5x removed of wife of 2nd cousin 8x removed

1934

41



Dr. Harold Bradford Conducts a Psych Class at Neighborhood House


15 Feb 1934 • Buffalo, New York

1 source 1 media

Explore

1934

42



Dr. Harold Bradford Member of Bison American Civic Club


7 Jun 1934 • Buffalo, New York

1 source 1 media

Explore

1934

42



Dr. Harold Bradford at the Civic Club

9 Oct 1934 • Buffalo, New York

1 source 1 media

Explore

1934

42

Birth of son William B. (Bill) Bradford (1934–2011)

14 Nov 1934 • Buffalo, Erie, New York, USA

1935

43

Residence


1935 • Buffalo, Erie, New York

1 source

Explore

1939

47



Dr. Harold Bradford Addresses Community Church

6 May 1939 • Buffalo, New York

1 source 1 media

Explore

N

Dunkirk Evening Observer

- 28 Nov 1919 - Page 11

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 10 Jun 1930 - 21

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 15 Feb 1934 - 5

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 27 Jul 1967 - 40

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 29 Jan 1934 - 1

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 6 May 1939 - 24

N

Newspapers.com - The Buffalo News

- 7 Jun 1934 - 27

N

Newspapers.com - The Minneapolis Star

- 18 Mar 1922 - Page 5

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Add source

+

Add web link

https://shervington.net/2024/11/01/the-mystery-of-grammys-hidden-heritage/

12

Next, I started building Harold's family tree to see if it was connected to any of William's descendants I had already established. Sure enough, I found that I had already listed his 2nd GGF, Lemuel Bradford b.1788, as a descendant. Establishing William Bradford b.1590 as Harold's 8th GGF may be easy, but establishing him as our 10th GGF could never be legitimized without a verifiable paper trail. The most we can hope for in this case is to share enough DNA with Harold's descendants to show that we are close enough in familial relation to support the hypothesis. I will certainly update this story as I get more information!

### **A SURPRISE ENDING**

During my research over the past year, I discovered that our family's ancestral path to passengers on the Mayflower can likely be established through Grammy's biological mother (our GGM), Julia A. Haskins b.1895.





I am still researching, and The Mayflower Society is collecting documentation and evaluating my application. Still, a cursory look indicates we may have as many as six ancestors and 14 cousins who arrived at Plymouth in 1620!

## Ancestors and Cousins

12 generations	✚	Mary (Allerton) Cushman (abt.1617-1699)	ancestor
13 generations	✚	John Howland (abt.1598-1673)	ancestor
13 generations	✚	Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland (bef.1607-1687)	ancestor
13 generations	✚	Richard Warren (1583-1628)	ancestor
13 generations	✚	Isaac Allerton (abt.1586-bef.1659)	ancestor
13 generations	✚	Mary (Norris) Allerton (abt.1590-1621)	ancestor
14 generations	✚	John Tilley (bef.1571-abt.1621)	ancestor
14 generations	✚	Joan (Hurst) Tilley (bef.1568-abt.1621)	ancestor
14 generations	✚	Remember (Allerton) Maverick (abt.1615-bef.1656)	
14 generations	✚	Bartholomew Allerton (abt.1612-bef.1659)	
14 generations	✚	Edward Winslow Jr. (1595-1655)	
14 generations	✚	Gilbert Winslow (1600-1631)	
15 generations	✚	John Allerton (abt.1588-bef.1621)	
16 generations	✚	Edward Tilley (bef.1588-1621)	
27 generations	✚	Elinora More (bef.1612-abt.1621)	
27 generations	✚	Jasper More (bef.1613-1620)	
27 generations	✚	Mary More (bef.1616-abt.1621)	
27 generations	✚	Richard More Sr. (bef.1614-bef.1696)	
31 generations	✚	Katherine (White) Carver (abt.1574-1621)	
31 generations	✚	Agnes (Cooper) Tilley (bef.1585-1621)	
32 generations	✚	Henry Samson (bef.1604-1684)	
32 generations	✚	Humility Cooper (abt.1619-bef.1651)	

The list of Mayflower passengers that we may be related to. (WikiTree: Shervington-25)



So, Happy Birthday Grammy! You'll be happy to know that we heard your story and are doing our best to legitimize the pride you held in your ancestral heritage, even after the adversity you lived through as a child. We cannot imagine what it must have been like to spend the first six years of your life in an orphanage and grow up knowing you were adopted. Just know that what we saw in you was joy and happiness as you spent time with us. We love and miss you greatly!

Skip & Stephanie

***How about you? Are you descendants of a Mayflower passenger? Do you have a family mystery? Tell us about it in the comments!***

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👤 Skip Shervington 📅 November 1, 2024 📁 Ancestry Research

🔖 Bumpus, Haskins, history, Mayflower, Mayflower Descendant, Mayflower Society, Peelo, pilgrims, plymouth, Shervington, thanksgiving, William Bradford